



INL team members Zach Yates, Matt Burchfield, Bryan Cook and Tyler Talbot transport a simulated 190-lb. injured person during the Security Protection Officer Training Competition.

## INL security team wins national competition

By [Carisa Schultz](#), *INL Communications & Governmental Affairs*

A six-member team of Idaho National Laboratory security police officers recently won the [2011 Security Protection Officer Team Competition](#) (SPOTC) in Texas.

Hosted annually at nuclear facilities across the nation, the competition evaluates the performance of security teams charged with protecting government and commercial nuclear facilities. A total of 20 teams, representing local and regional law enforcement and the U.S. military, competed in this year's event June 12 to 16 at the Pantex Plant Firearms and Tactics Facility in Amarillo, Texas.

Known by participants as one of the most realistic and difficult training competitions, the event began in 1972 as a way to gauge the mental and physical ability of security officers at U.S. Department of Energy facilities.

Each year, the five-day event challenges participants through a series of increasingly difficult obstacle courses and shooting exercises requiring the use of handguns and rifles. Each timed and scored exercise measures teamwork, shooting accuracy, physical endurance and communication skills, while incorporating realistic scenarios.

"Protecting the nation's nuclear research facilities from security threats is something we take very seriously," said Doug Evancic, INL's lead security trainer. "The key to this year's victory was a well-trained team that shot consistently at each event."



***Matt Burchfield (left) and Zach Yates (right) flip and push the massive tire during the tire challenge.***



***Members of the winning INL team include (front row, l to r): Jay Blake, Zach Yates, Matt Burchfield, Bryan Cook, Tyler Talbot and Bruce Jones. INL team coaches include (back row, l to r): Dennis Larsen, Doug Evancic and Bennie Cooley.***

Members of the winning team are Jay Blake (team captain), Bryan Cook (assistant team captain), Tyler Talbot, Matt Burchfield, Zach Yates and Bruce Jones.

INL's protective force trains all year to protect the laboratory's assets, maintain skills and perform at events like SPOTC. The lab has participated in SPOTC for more than 25 years. Protective force teams from INL have won this competition five times since 1983 — in 1988, 1990, 1992, 1995 and 2011.

This win comes on the heels of another INL victory in May, when a different team took first place in the 2011 Snake River SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) challenge in Boise. INL-sponsored teams won first- and second-place awards over seven competing regional teams at that competition in Boise.

Amarillo Globe story: <http://amarillo.com/news/local-news/2011-06-17/test-skill-accuracy> (contains YouTube video of 2011 competition)

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